

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of reducing or ~~alleviating one or more side effects of anti-retroviral drug therapy~~ delaying viral rebound during interruption of anti-retroviral drug treatment comprising administering to ~~[[a]] an HIV infected subject exhibiting a low retroviral load~~ a poxvirus an avipox vector encoding an HIV antigen ~~of the retrovirus or the retrovirus antigen and IFN γ a cytokine, or a functional homolog, derivative, part or analog of the retrovirus antigen and/or the cytokine, in conjunction with interrupted anti-retroviral drug therapy~~ wherein ~~the antigen or the antigen and the IFN γ cytokine~~ are expressed in the subject and are effective in maintaining or prolonging a low retroviral load in the subject for a period of time and are effective in ~~preventing~~, reducing or delaying viral rebound during interruption of anti-retroviral drug treatment.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~[[or 2]]~~, wherein the vector is administered to a subject exhibiting a low retroviral ~~[[viral]]~~ load as a result of or prior to anti-retroviral drug therapy.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~[[or 2]]~~, wherein the vector is administered to a subject exhibiting a low retroviral load prior to commencement of anti-retroviral drug therapy.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently amended) The method of any one of claims 1 or 3-4 ~~[[to 6]]~~, wherein the

retrovirus antigen is encoded by a coding region selected from *gag*, *env*, *pol* and *pro* coding regions.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the retrovirus antigen is encoded by *gag* and/or *pol* coding regions.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the retrovirus antigen is encoded by *gag* and *pol* coding regions of HIV.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[10]]~~1, wherein the avipox virus vector is a fowlpox virus vector.
- 12-46. (Canceled)
47. (Withdrawn) A recombinant poxvirus vector comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoding a retrovirus antigen or a functional homolog, derivative, part or analog thereof, and a sequence of nucleotides encoding a cytokine or a functional homolog, derivative, part or analog thereof, when used in conjunction with interrupted anti-retroviral drug therapy to maintain or prolong a low retroviral load in a subject and to prevent, reduce or delay viral rebound during interruption of anti-retroviral drug treatment in a subject.
48. (Withdrawn) A recombinant poxvirus vector comprising a sequence of nucleotides encoding a retrovirus antigen or a functional homolog, derivative, part or analog thereof, and a sequence of nucleotides encoding a cytokine or a functional homolog, derivative, part or analog thereof, when used for reducing or alleviating one or more side effects of anti-retroviral drug therapy.
49. (Withdrawn) The recombinant poxvirus vector of claim 48, when used for maintaining

or prolonging a low retroviral load in the subject during anti-retroviral treatment interruption and for reducing or alleviating one or more side effects of anti-retroviral drug therapy.

50. (Withdrawn) The recombinant poxvirus vector of claims 47, 48 or 49, wherein the retrovirus is HIV.
51. (Withdrawn) The recombinant vector of claims 47, 48, 49 or 50, wherein the cytokine is selected from IFN γ , IL-12, IL-2, TNF and IL-6.
52. (Withdrawn) The recombinant vector of claim 51, wherein the cytokine is IFN γ .
53. (Previously Withdrawn) The recombinant vector of claim 52, wherein the IFN γ comprises the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 6 or an amino acid sequence having at least about 60% similarity thereto.
54. (Withdrawn) The recombinant vector of claim 52, wherein IFN γ is encoded by a sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 5 or a sequence of nucleotides encoding a functional homolog or derivative thereof having at least 60% similarity thereto or a sequence which hybridises thereto or to a complementary form thereof under conditions of medium stringency.
55. (Withdrawn) The recombinant vector of any one of claims 47 to 54, wherein the retrovirus antigen is encoded by a coding region selected from *gag*, *env*, *pol* and *pro* coding regions.
56. (Withdrawn) The recombinant vector of claim 55, wherein the retrovirus antigen is encoded by *gag* and/or *pol* coding regions.
57. (Withdrawn) The recombinant vector of claim 56, wherein the retrovirus antigen is

encoded by *gag* and *pol* coding regions of HIV.

58. (Withdrawn) The recombinant vector of claim 57, wherein the retrovirus antigens encoded by *gag* and *pol* comprise the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO: 2 or a functional homolog, part or derivative thereof or a sequence of amino acids having at least 60% similarity thereto, and SEQ ID NO: 4 or a functional homolog, part or derivative thereof or a sequence of amino acids having at least 60% similarity thereto, respectively.
59. (Withdrawn) The recombinant vector of claim 57, wherein the retrovirus antigen encoded by *gag* is encoded by a sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 or a sequence of nucleotides encoding a functional homolog, part or derivative thereof having at least 60% similarity thereto after optimal alignment or a sequence which hybridises thereto or to a complementary form thereof under conditions of medium stringency, and wherein the retrovirus antigen encoded by *pol* is encoded by a sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3 or a sequence of nucleotides encoding a functional homolog, part or derivative thereof having at least 60% similarity thereto after optimal alignment or a sequence which hybridises thereto or to a complementary form thereof under conditions of medium stringency.
60. (Withdrawn) The recombinant vector of any one of claims 47 to 59, wherein the poxvirus vector is an avipox virus vector.
61. (Withdrawn) The recombinant vector of claim 60, wherein the avipox virus vector is a fowlpox virus vector.
62. (Withdrawn) The recombinant vector of claim 61, wherein the insertion site in the fowlpox vector comprises the sequence of nucleotides set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7.